

William Harper

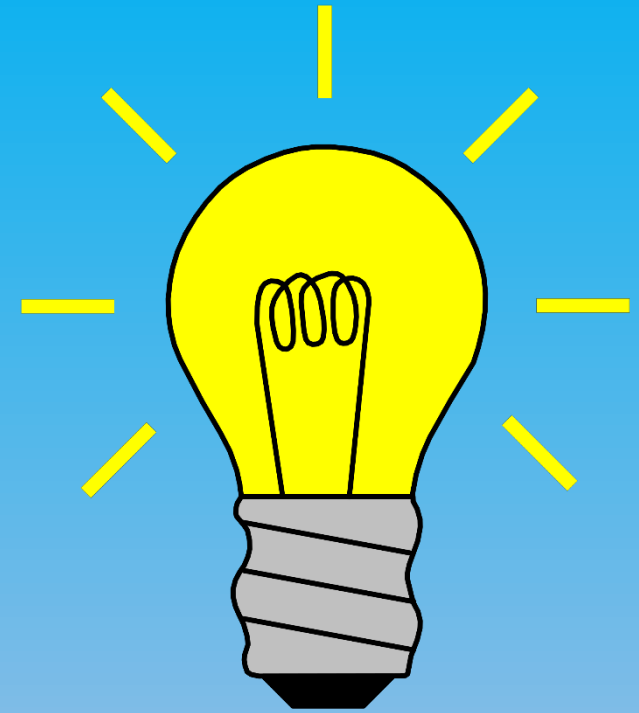


Introduction

- Married to Mairi
- Two daughters- Emma and Olivia
- Beef and sheep farm in Renfrewshire
- Land is let from four different landlords
- 600 acres
- Mixture of Lets: LDT, SLDT, Agistments and Grass Lets
- Also arable contract starting this year, covering 500 acres



History



- Brought up on a Dairy Farm
- Attended Oatridge College
- Work experience in Australia (Lightbulb Moment)
- Once back, realised there was not enough work at home

1992

GETTING STARTED!

- Two important decisions/events
- At 24 years old, put an offer in for Gryffe Wraes Farm
- 300 acres
- Went into ten year partnership with Elderslie Estate

1996

- BSE halved the value of stock
- Rotavirus decimated young calves
- Hanging on by the skin of our teeth



FIELDS AT GRYFFE WRAES



2003

- Land reform
- Ten year partnership finished
- Put onto temporary grazing lets for the whole farm for the next two years

2005

- SLDT for five year term

GOLDENLEA FARMERS



2011

- 2nd SLDT for another five year term

2017

- LDT for 17 years on Smaller Acreage
- Moved rest of land onto agistment agreements



Relationships

- Land Lords
- Agents/ Factors
- Suppliers



Get Involved

- Join Groups

 - Monitor Farms

 - Vet Groups

 - Agronomy Groups

 - SAC

- Join NFU Scotland/ Breed Societies

(Don't let older generations dictate your future)

- **TALK TO AND MIX WITH ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE!**



Don't let the system get you down- like this old friend of mine, who's washed up on the beach.